

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /145 W

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R 141038Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4969

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 2261

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS CB

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON STUDENT/TEACHER AGITATION

REF: PHNOM PENH 2119 (KHMER REPORT, FEB 12, 1974)

1. SUMMARY. THE RADICAL STATEMENT BY THE TEACHERS STRIKE COMMITTEE (REFTEL) AND A MORE RECENT ANTI-GOVERNMENT PEACE DECLARATION BY THE NATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION PROMPTED THE CABINET TO RECOMMEND ACTION BE TAKEN AGAINST TEACHER AND STUDENT AGITATORS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PRIME MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FURTHER STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO BETTER THE TEACHERS' ECONOMIC SITUATION IF THEY ARE TO BE WEANED AWAY FROM RADICAL AGITATORS. END SUMMARY.

2. TALKS WITH PROMINENT TEACHERS, INCLUDING THE MODERATES VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, INDICATE THAT FEW WERE INVOLVED IN OR EVEN KNEW THE DRAFTERS OF THE RADICAL FEBRUARY 6 STATEMENT REFUSING TO CALL OFF THE STRIKE. MOST, HOWEVER, SEEMED TO WELCOME THIS ANGRY AIRING OF THE GRIEVANCES DESPITE ITS STRONGLY MARXIST OVER-SECRET

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TONES. THE CONCLUSION WE DRAW IS THAT THE PRESENT UNHAPPY

MOOD OF THE TEACHERS HAS PROVIDED A SMALL NUMBER OF COMMUNIST OR CRYPTO-COMMUNIST AGITATORS A QUICKLY SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO STIR UP TROUBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

3. IN A FEBRUARY 14 CONVERSATION WITH THE CHARGE AND POL/MIL COUNSELOR, PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET SUPPORTED TO SOME EXTENT THIS VIEW. BORET POINTED OUT THAT THE TEACHERS' STRIKE COMMITTEE IS ENTIRELY SELF-APPOINTED AND THAT ONLY FOUR OR FIVE MEMBERS ACTUALLY ATTENDED THE MEETING AT WHICH THE FEBRUARY 6 DECLARATION WAS ADOPTED, ACCORDING TO A NATIONAL POLICE AGENT WHO WAS PRESENT. THE NATIONAL POLICE HAVE BEEN CALLING IN MEMBERS OF THE STRIKE COMMITTEE TO QUERY THEM ON THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE DRAFTING OF THIS DOCUMENT. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE PEN MONIL DECLARED THAT HE HAD NOT SUBSCRIBED TO ALL OF THE POINTS IN THE DECLARATION. THE COMMITTEE'S MOST EXTREME LEFTIST, FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN REAM YOSSAR, HAS NOT ANSWERED THE POLICE SUMMONS. QUESTIONING OF THE OTHER ELEVEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAS NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED.

4. BORET NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN A FEBRUARY 12 MEETING AGREED (WITH ONLY CHENG HEMH'S SON-IN-LAW DUONG SARETH DISSENTING) THAT THE TEACHERS' DECLARATION CONSTITUTES SEDITION. THE MINISTERS LEFT A DECISION ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE THE DRAFTERS OF THIS DECLARATION TO A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO BE COMPOSED OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FANK COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. THEY WILL MEET IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BORET INDICATED.

5. THE PRIME MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FURTHER STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO MEET THE TEACHERS' COMPLAINTS IF THEY ARE TO BE WEANED AWAY FROM SUCH RADICAL LEADERSHIP. HE NOTED THAT A RAISE IN SALARY WOULD REQUIRE NEW LEGISLATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND WOULD CERTAINLY GIVE RISE TO DEMANDS FOR EQUAL TREATMENT FROM ALL OTHER SEVBORS OF THE GOVERNMENT. HE HAS CONSEQUENTLY ADVANCED THE PROPOSAL THAT THE PARENTS ASSOCIATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ADOPTING A SYSTEM UNDER WHICH PARENTS PAY 100 RIELS PER MONTH PER CHILD TO AUGMENT TEACHER SALARIES. THIS WOULD NOT ONLY AVOID PLACING A LARGE EXTRA BURDEN ON THE BUDGET BUT WOULD ENSURE THAT THE RAISE WENT ONLY TO THOSE TEACHERS

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ACTUALLY TEACHING. BORET ALSO REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING A SPECIAL "PEDAGOGICAL ALLOWANCES NOW GIVEN TEACHERS. IN THE MEANTIME WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE SENATE HAS JUST APPROVED INCREASING TEACHERS' OVERTIME PAY BY 50 O/O

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6. BORET REVEALED THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION HAS DIVIDED INTO THREE FAC-
TIONO, A SMALL LEFTIST GROUP CENTERED AROUND THE ASSOCIA-
TION'S PRO-COMMUNIST PRESIDENT LOCH SOEUN, A GROUP WITH
VIEWS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER SON SANN,
AND A PRO-GOVERNMENT GROUP. THE "DECLARATION FOR PEACE",
WHICH THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD MUCH DIFFICULTY DRAFTING,
HAS NOW APPEARED, LONG BORET SAID, AND REFLECTS FOR THE
MOST PART THE VIEWS OF THE SON SANNISTS. (FACULTY OF LETTERS
STUDENTS TELL US THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE PUBLISHED BY FEBRUARY 16).
BORET INDICATED THAT THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, THE FANK CICNC
AND HIMSELF HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY THE CABINET THE RESPONSIBILITY
OF DETERMINING WHAT TO DO WITH THE RADICAL STUDENT AS WELL
AS THE RADICAL TEACHER LEADERSHIP.

7. DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE EXTENSIVE GRUNK/FUNK PROPAGANDA
EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT THE DEATH OF FOUR YOUTHS AT THE HANDS OF
THEIR FANK CAPTORS, THE CHARGE ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER FOR
THE STATUS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INVESTIGATION. BORET SAID
THAT, WHILE THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE'S REPORT IS ON HIS DESK,
THE FANK GENERAL HEADQUARTERS HAS NOT YET SUBMITTED ITS
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REPORT, WHICH IS REQUIRED BEFORE LEGAL ACTION CAN BE INITIATED.

8. WE WILL BE EXPLORING THESE MATTERS WITH OTHER KEY CONTACTS IN VIEW OF STIMULATING THE GKR TO FIND RAPID MEANS OF DAMPENING TEACHER AND STUDENT AGITATION.

ENDERS

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